SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, by and large, in the sphere of exports, we are exporting traditional items so far. There may be some new items. But generally, we are exporting the traditional items. But I would like to know whether the Government of India has prepared any special scheme to diversify the products that we are exporting and to export more new items. What concrete programme have the Government of India taken up?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, this is good suggestion. our traditional basket of exports should be changed. Our emphasis is to add new items of exports, and probably, computer software will be occupying the largest portion of our exports in future. This is increasing. We have got a lot of scope, and I think, in future, software and services will play a major role in our exports.

Setting up of Industries in Meghalaya

*244. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from abroad for setting up industries in private, public as well as cooperative sectors in the State of Meghalya under the liberalisation policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have invited any foreign company to make investment in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Government has received and approved three proposals of foreign direct investment involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 5662.82 lakh in the State of Meghalaya as per the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below)

(c) to (e) The decision of investment in a project with location in a state/ region mainly depends on the commercial judgement of the investor which is guided by various factors like availability of adequate and dependable infrastructure facilities such as power, land, water, law and order situation,

various incentives extended by State Government, etc.

Statement-I

FDI Approvals for Meghalaya

S. No.	Name of the Indian Company	Name of the Foreign Collaborator	Approved Activities	%age & amt of foreign equity	Location
1.	M/s. Narpuh Cements Ltd.	M/s. Bengal Tiger Cement Industries, Bangladesh	Manufacture of Cement Clinker	50% Rs. 600 lakh	Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya
2.	M/s. Lum Mawshun Minerals Pvt. Ltd.	M/s. Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., Bangladesh	Mining and export of Lima stone	74% Rs. 31.82 lakh	East Khasi Hills
3.	M/s. Lafarge	M/s. Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., Bangladesh	Carrying out long term commercial mining and distribution operations	100% Rs. 5031 lakh	Meghalaya

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of proposals that are still pending with the Government for clearance.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, regarding that particular State, I have given the number in my main reply. In the Statement, I have stated very clearly that there are three projects for Meghalaya. One is Narpuh Cements Ltd. Another is L.M.M. Pvt. Ltd. The third is Lafarge Cement Factory. All the three are pending, Sir.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know if there is any proposal still pending with the Government.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: That is what I am saying. Regarding Narpuh Cements Ltd., the name of the foreign collaborator is Bengal Tiger Cement Industries, Bangaladesh. The project has not yet been taken up as the Company has not been able to acess the required funds. However, the project has not been given up by the Company.

L.M.M. Pvt Ltd. is promoted y Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., Bangladesh. The approved activity is mining and export of limestone. The Company has applied for a mining lease of 0.8 million tonnes of limestone per annum. Later, the Company revised its mining plan to increase the quantitly to 1.6 million tonnes. However, the Company has not sent a formal request to the State

Government, in spite of the later's reminders.

The third one is Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., Bangladesh. They have applied for a hundred per cent foreign equity for carrying out long-term commercial mining and distribution operations for manufacturing cement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are already laid on the Table.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: No. Sir. I want to know this becasue, according to my information, there are a few more proposals yet to be cleared by the Government.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: According to the information availale, only these three cases are pending.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Whether the Government is aware of the proposal from the J.G. Spices Ltd. for foreign collaboration this year.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I don't have any information. I will go into it. I will write to the hon. Member and give the information.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: सभापति जी। मेरठ के बारे में मैं अभी कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता लेकिन मेघालय में जिन कंपनियों को एप्रूवल दिया है, वे सब बंगलादेश की कंपनियां हैं। बंगलादेश के लोग तो वैसे ही हमारे यहां चले आ रहे हैं विशेषकर नॉर्थ ईस्ट में, तो इन्हें पहले यह चेक करना चाहिए कि वे जेनुइन कंपनियाएं हैं और इसी काम के लिए आ रही हैं या ये लोग इनफिल्ट्रेशन कर रहे हैं? क्या मंत्री महोदय इसके बारे में जानकारी देंगे?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, these are all under examination. We will send the proposal to the Home Ministry. They will examine it; they will clear it. We will send the proposal to the Ministry of External Affairs. They will examine it. Only after due diligence and clearance, we will approve it.

SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Sir, it is just in continuaiton of the hon. Member Gautamji's question. Bangladeshi infiltration into this country has assumed alarming proportions, specially in the North East. Now, the industry is also coming in there. Would it not happen that Bangaladesh would have a very big say in the entire political scenario of Meghalaya once we allow that? I am saying this becasue industry is power; it is money. People are already there; money is also there. What else is needed for politics!

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, there is a very interesting proposal, in the sense, that they will take the minerals from Meghalaya to Bangladesh and make cement there. That will give a lot of job opportunities to the people of

Meghalaya. At the same time, other factors also should be taken into consideration. That is why we are waiting for the remarks and the clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs. We will take into account all these factors.

*245. [The Questioners (Shri Kapil Sibal and Dr. D. Masthan) were absent. For answer vide page 30 infra.]

*246 [The Questioner (Shri P. Prabhakar Reddy) was absent. For answer vide page 31 infra.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 247.

Substitution of conventional Materials in Automobiles

*247. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to constitute a study group to implement substitution of conventional materials like iron, wood with aluminium in automobiles;

(b) if so, what are details of the proposal;

(c) whether any research has been conducted on the substitution by aluminium in automobile industry; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d) A sub group constituted in 1997 by the Ministry of Surface Transport had recommended against the use of wood in the construction of cabin and bodies of carriage vehicles. The group had recommended, instead, that these structures should be fabricated with metal endued with requisite impact strength, should be rust proof, and of low weight.

There is no proposal to constitute a study group to implement substitution of materials in automotive construction. These are development activities undertaken by the Industry and Research Institutions as a continuing exercise Internationally there is a move to use more and more aluminium or its alloy,